

Major Leaguers Refuse to Be "Made Goats" for Lads in Smaller Organizations

WELCOMING MINORS MAY BREAK UNION

Fultz Opens Doors to Classes B and C and Big Leaguers Protest.

BAN JOHNSON IS HAPPY

Red Sox, According to Harry Frazee, Are Sending in Signed Contracts.

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

Foiled in his attempt to obtain a charter from the American Federation of Labor, President David L. Fultz, now announces that the Baseball Players' Fraternity will welcome players of Class B and Class C leagues into equal membership with major leaguers.

Almost simultaneously comes word that major league players all over the country are turning in their resignations to Fultz, refusing to be "made goats" by professional promoters. It is estimated that of the 1,200 members of the organization at present, fully three-quarters are former big leaguers who have slipped back into the bushes.

"The backbone of the players' strike is broken," said Ban Johnson on the eve of his departure for Dover, Del., where he will appear before the 1917 schedule for ratification next month.

One Player Writes.

A major league player, asking that his name be kept dark for the present, has written to Bill McGraw, of the New York Tribune, expressing dissatisfaction with the recent work of Dave Fultz.

"David L. Fultz," says the letter, "exceeded his authority when he attempted to affiliate our cause with the American Federation of Labor. We did not promise Fultz, even, that we would make an issue of minor league concerns. We assured him that we would stick till the major magnates eliminated the disability clause from their contracts. That has been done. We have no further quarrel."

"I wish to inform you," the missive continued, "that a counter-move has been started against the executive of the fraternity. I attended a meeting of several major league players a few days ago. Without exception every one deplored the fact that the labor union element had been dragged into this controversy."

Oppose Labor Move.

"Want to go on record right here that major league ball players will not stand for the affiliation of our cause with organized labor. The position has been stated clearly to the fraternity. The major league players are ready to break away rather than to compromise themselves on an issue in which they have no concern."

"I understand the fraternity head is about to launch a campaign for the alignment of the players with the minor leagues with his cause. That is another reason why we of the major league should break away. Major and minor ball is as far separated as the East and the West."

Red Sox Are Signing.

A week or so ago Duffy Lewis, the Red Sox outfielder, was quoted as saying that the world's champions "would strike, if Fultz gave the word. Today Harry Frazee, the Red Sox manager, has already signed nine players and five more will be eligible by Thursday. Apparently the Red Sox have broken away from the fraternity."

Larry Doyle, a strong fraternity man, has notified Charlie Weegman that he is not in sympathy with the proposed strike and will report February 20, to make the trip to Pasadena with the Cubs.

On the other hand, George Whitted, the Phillies' outfielder, has refused to sign for 1917, a day says he will stick to the fraternity to the end. He is joined by his clubmate, Dode Baskert, who has returned an unsigned contract to President Baker, of the Phillies.

Charlie Ebbets Explains.

An insight into the reason for the salary-cutting now in vogue is offered by the explanation of Charlie Ebbets, president of the Brooklyn Dodgers, why eleven of the National League champions have had their salaries reduced.

Ebbets said that his action is but a mere return to normal conditions, as every player but one of the eleven has been offered more money than he was paid before the Federal League came into the field.

Of the eleven in question, six forced the Brooklyn club to cancel contracts under which they had been working during the league season, threatening to jump to the Federal League. The demands were granted. Two others forced this action between seasons and three others came to the Brooklyn club from other clubs with long-term contracts.

Lavan Rebukes Players.

Johnny Lavan, the Brownies' crack little shortstop, hands out a stinging rebuke to those players who would strike.

"Any major league player who will go out on a strike at this time is working against his own interests and playing into the hands of the magnates," says Lavan. "The club owners won't worry much if we strike. It will be the player who will worry."

Izzy Hoffman, former big league outfielder and now a minor league manager, comes to bat with an amusing reason for the failure of any strike. "There won't be any," says Hoffman. "Why, there are some players smoking only two cigarettes a day because they have no paydays in the off-season. They can't wait till they grab a salary envelope and then can smoke a pack a day."

BROWNS MUST SIGN

Contracts Offered Null and Void After Ten Days.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—In each of the twenty contracts recently mailed to Brown players by Business Manager Branch Rickey, there is an added clause which says, in substance: "Unless this contract is signed and returned within ten days, it shall be null and void."

Under the very terms of the new documents, therefore, it will be easy for the management to determine what players are in sympathy with the fraternity and, assuming that the new attitude of Presidents Ban Johnson and John K. Tener are decisive, it is reasonable to think that the twenty members will be severely dealt with.

MUST HAVE PUBLIC TO WIN VICTORY

Branch Rickey Discusses Troubles Now Afflicting National Game.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Local baseball magnates are not worrying much over Dave Fultz's chattering back East. Branch Rickey, himself an attorney as well as business manager of the Browns, has the following to say against the fraternity chieftain:

"I can't see why we should be worried about Fultz's threat to enlist the aid of the American Federation of Labor. I will say, though, that unless Fultz does enlist the aid of some powerful ally, such as President Wilson, Mr. Gompers, or Theodore Roosevelt—some person or persons who can sway public sentiment—he is a gone do. Just now I absolutely know that public sentiment is on the magnates' side. The fans appreciate what we have done for the ball players, and they appreciate the foolishness of Fultz precipitating a strike of major league players, because of some trivial differences between the minor leaguers and their employers."

Union Wages For Players.

"But assuming that the fraternity joins the American Federation of Labor, what then? First we'll have to have a standardization of salaries."

We'll have to have a fixed pay for all basemen, shortstops, outfielders. All right, let's proceed to the business of signing contracts. Here's a young third baseman from the minor leagues, just breaking in. We consult the schedule and find that the standard salary for third sacker, as laid down by the unionized fraternity, is \$3,000. Fine! The young player is immensely pleased. It's more than he expected."

"Now comes Frank Baker, an established star, a drawing card and worth probably as much as he can get. But the book says Baker is a third baseman and the standard salary for such men is \$3,000. Then you'll hear the squawk. The very idea of Baker playing for the same salary as a bush leaguer is preposterous. But what can the magnates do? But pay the unionized scale? Haven't the players joined the union?"

Will Close Parks.

"On the other hand, supposing there is a strike. Unquestionably the magnates will close down their parks and the players will be out of work. Now, where is the average player going to turn and look for a salary in any way commensurate with his rewards on the diamond?"

"Only recently there was a milk wagon drivers' strike. I knew one man who made \$3 a day driving a milk wagon. After the lockout he went to work at another job and was paid \$2.25 a day. But do you know that the average daily pay of the ballplayer is \$15 or \$16 or better? Some run as high as \$50 a day."

"Where are these men going to get any such salaries? If the ball parks shut down they may turn to some other business and be thankful for as much as \$15 a day. They will suffer a reduction of from 100 to 1,000 per cent."

Can't Be Standardized.

"Baseball is a skilled labor. Its salaries cannot be standardized. Would that they could! What a relief it would be to know that all outfielders would be paid only \$2,500 a year and all pitchers only \$3,000. What a cinch this business of signing ballplayers then would be."

"I tell you, we have nothing to fear from the fraternity. We have made concessions to the players, and if they now choose to follow Fultz they are making their own bed, and they will have to sleep in it. So let them have their fling. We have nothing to fear."

To the strikers of everyone. Those who delay may live to repent."

LEONARD IS WINNER

Pounds Eddie Wallace All Through Six-Round Contest.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 23.—Benny Leonard did almost everything but knock out Eddie Wallace last night at the Olympia Athletic Association. After the second round it wasn't a fight, it was merely a question how long Leonard would stay.

In the fourth round the bell saved Wallace. He was nearly a body saved from left to the body and rights to the face. In the fifth Eddie hung close and kept guard. He managed to last the round.

Despite his covering up, Wallace was pounded hard to the face, and when the bell rang he was nearly ready to drop to the mat on the ropes.

CLAIMS "FIXED" RACE.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—A charge that last year's pennant race in the Pacific Coast League was "fixed" so the Vernon club could win was made in a statement by Edward R. Maier, former owner of the club, made public here yesterday. Maier was expelled from the league last September.

MADISON SQUARE TO NEW PROMOTER

Grant Hugh Brown Will Now Stage New York's Big Boxing Shows.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Grant Hugh Brown, recently impresario of a race track at Havana, Cuba, will, by his own admission, begin today to upfit boxing in New York city. He claimed he had closed negotiations for a year's lease on Madison Square Garden and that he would begin at once to recruit members for his national sports club of America.

Brown says he intends to organize a club like the famous sporting organization in London. Madison Square Garden, he declared, will be made over so that a fifteen-story set of furnished rooms with bath will be projected into the Madison avenue side of the huge building. Inside there will be stationed permanently an area capable of seating 6,000 spectators, several hundred seconds, and new boxers.

Brown declares he will stage twenty-five or thirty high-class boxing contests every year. An effort will be made, he declares, to have the highest class of attendance possible, members of the national club to be favored in application for tickets.

Brown expects to meet Tim O'Sullivan, manager of Les Darcy, today, and will make him a good offer for a bout with Jack Dillon or Billy Miske, the former being favored.

Now that Brown has gathered in the Garden—apparently—Tex Rickard is expected to step entirely out of the way in regard to Darcy. He has said ever since the Australian left his native land without becoming a soldier that whenever the time came for Darcy to make a good match he would not stand in the way.

Darcy, however, has refrained from signing for any of the huge fortunes named by promoters. It may be that even yet he will refuse to sign until Rickard has exhausted every resource. The Western promoter has talked of building his own arena. If the Garden really has slipped out of his grasp he may go ahead with these plans.

LEADS CIRCUIT

Epiphany Third Team Tops Others in Capital City League.

Epiphany Third is out in front in the Capital City Basketball League, having won from the other five teams in the circuit in six straight wins.

The Epiphany team recently defeated the P. J. team, leader of the Phi Mu League, in handily fashion. The standing of the Capital City League follows:

	Won.	Lost.	Pct.
Epiphany Third.....	6	0	1.000
Epiphany First.....	4	2	.667
Hartford.....	3	3	.500
Pinkney.....	3	3	.500
Sixth Auditors.....	2	4	.333
Iroquois.....	0	6	.000

Southern and Baltimore and Ohio will meet tonight in the regularly scheduled Terminal Railroad Y. M. C. A. League contest at Union Station.

Peck, Mount Pleasant, and Epiphany senior basketballs and the Keller junior quint won games in the Sunday School League last night at the Y. M. C. A. Mount Pleasant Juniors forfeited to Epiphany Juniors.

Peck's game with Grace Baptist featured the program. Beaten 11 to 2 at half time, the Peck combination evened the count at 13 with Grace before the regular time expired, and threw two scrimmage goals during the extra five-minute period.

U. S. G. A. IS NOT WORRIED

Threat of Western Golfers to Revolt Not Taken Seriously.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The proposed action of the Western Golf Association, which may result in a new amateur rule for that body, does not interest United States Golf Association officials, said a member of the executive committee of the national body yesterday.

The national rule applies only to golfers and not to different associations, declared the official, and only those golfers who comply with the present amateur rule are to be eligible for amateur tournaments. The threatened revolt of the Westerners does not perturb the U. S. G. A. in the least, he averred.

"Should the Western Association formulate an amateur rule different in tone and letter from the one governing the players of the national body, we would not interfere with the plans of the U. S. G. A.," said the official. "We have a rule in our constitution which defines an amateur. That rule is to be enforced regardless of the actions of individuals or associations."

WILL INVESTIGATE

Wisconsin Authorities Summon Freddie Welsh to Explain.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 23.—The Wisconsin athletic commission, urged on by a protest from many boxing fans, has decided to investigate charges against Freddie Welsh, world's lightweight champion. A summons has been sent Welsh, requiring his presence here under pain of being barred from the State in the future.

Many fans united to charge Welsh with "stalling and shamming" in his bout a week ago tonight with Ritchie Mitchell. The champion was examined by the club physician and found "in perfect condition." After his unsatisfactory performance, Welsh and his manager, Pollok, declared that he "was a physical wreck and fortunate to have escaped a knockout."

FEDERALS WINNERS.

Federals easily defeated Westovers at basketball in the Noel House gymnasium last night, the score being 41 to 13. O'Connor and Anderson, of the winners, made six baskets from floor play.

ATHLETE'S INJURIES ARE NOT SERIOUS

Fees, G. U. Basketer, Escaped With Slight Scalp Wound in G. W. U. Mix-up.

Freddy Fees, Georgetown's star forward, who was battered up Saturday night in the George Washington Georgetown game, escaped with a slight scalp wound and considerable battering. Fees kept the Blue and Gray team in the running by shooting seventeen out of twenty free tosses.

Twice the light youngster was bumped hard, once taking the count, after he had banged his head on the floor. Another time Fees jammed into Referee Colliflower and that astute official took time out for himself as well as the Georgetown man. The Blue and Gray is expected to be fit for tomorrow's engagement with the Navy. A large squad of rosters will go with the team at noon. Friday Georgetown will play the Brooklyn stars from St. John's College.

Brooks Brewer will leave tomorrow morning for the Millrose games in New York. He will enter a special seventy-yard dash against Roy Morse, O'Hara, and Stephenson, the M. I. T. sprinters; Alva Myer, Andy Ward, and Joe Loomis.

"Dutch" Peck, captain of Western's team last year, recently twisted his knee in a game with the Penn freshmen team. Peck is alternating at guard, forward, and center. The freshmen are rated on a par with the varsity.

Homewood Field has been selected for the South Atlantic collegiate games to be held May 11 and 12 this year.

BOB THAYER'S Sporting Gossip

Every now and then you hear of some "rising featherweight." He stops a sleep, wallop from Johnny Kilbane.

Washington's school boys engaging in that swimming meet today at Central High School are to be encouraged in every way. Every youngster should know how to swim and competition is sure to bring out all the latent skill and strength possessed by the boys. Washington now possesses one of the liveliest swimming organizations in the East and the time is not far distant when the Capital will rank among the country's leaders in swimming.

What we want to know is, Will the players have to parade on Labor Day?

If the players insist on striking—and it doesn't look that way to us—will their contracts become null and void? And if the players, with contracts nullified, become members of the A. F. of L., what will hinder the magnates from signing them to contracts stipulating union salary, working hours, conditions of labor, apprentices, etc., all of which will be quite in accord with the custom of the present labor unions? Under baseball custom, the star players have no limit to the salary they may obtain, barring the impossible.

Youngsters do not draw as much as stars, but they have their future before them. Under strictly union conditions, mediocre players may demand quite as much as the stars. This may be enough to defeat the plan.

Uncle Lemuel murmurs, "Well, Dave Fultz is getting a lot of advertisement for his law business after he quits the fraternity."

According to St. Louis reports, track and field athletes in the Mount City are absolutely dead. It is pointed out that one meet for the Western District championships took in \$12 at the gate and the Missouri A. C. is going to stop financing races and meets, being convinced that it can be but a losing venture. Bringing the situation closer to home, it must be admitted that track athletes in the District of Columbia are about in the same condition. Georgetown usually does well with its annual indoor meet, but that is the exception proving the rule. The South Atlantic A. A. U. carefully refrains from taking chances by staging a meet of any kind. Track sport provides excellent action pictures for the sport pages and headlines for the promoters.

The latest list of athletic heroes decorated for bravery at the front does not include Les Darcy. Neither does the casualty list.

The latest baseball contracts bar the players from engaging in any branch of athletic endeavor, such as football, basketball, baseball or even tiddledewinks, outside of the regular diamond season. Ban Johnson and John Tener are insistent that players, especially major leaguers, will engage in no barnstorming trips following the regular seasons, or endanger their lives in football or basketball games. While players may complain, nevertheless, they are well paid for their summer activities and they should remember that their clubs have the greatest interest in their continuing in good condition for succeeding seasons.

SCHOOL TEAMS NOW AT HALFWAY MARK

League Battles to Be Resumed Next Tuesday After Double Bill Today.

The halfway mark will be reached today in the High School Basketball League when Western and Central take the floor in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium for the first game of a double bill and Technical and Business finish off the affair in the second contest.

Technical is out in front at present, with three victories and no defeats. Business, with two wins and one loss, is second, with Central and Western tied for third, with one victory and two defeats. Eastern is last, with one win and three defeats.

Interest in Tech.

Tech is attracting unusual interest on account of the fact that the team has come through three games in decisive manner. Western, Central and Eastern were beaten off decisively. And if the Manual Trades land the battle today from Business the remainder of the season should be fairly easy sailing for Tech.

Business probably will be without the services of Buck Wise, star left forward, who has been out of the game for a week with grip. Wise is due to graduate next week, and is anxious to finish out his basketball career.

Central is Stranger.

The return of Potter to the Central lineup will make that team stronger than in its last battle. Potter will add greater scoring strength to the Blue and White lineup. With Solomon and Delle in forwards, White in center and Potter and either Long or Kaplan in guards, the team looks to be better equipped than at any time this year.

Western will send in W. Herron and Wright in forwards, Chamberlaine in center and Johnstone and D. Herron in guards. Western is improving right along and can be expected to give the Central a good argument.

No Game Friday.

On account of the fact that today's games are being played in a double bill there will be no game Friday. Tech and Business were scheduled to meet on Friday but Tech asked for a postponement earlier in the season, which was understood to be granted.

In addition to the high school game today, the Ambassadors Army and Navy Prep will entertain Gonzaga in the A. N. P. gymnasium. Friday the Preps play Gallaudet Reserves at Kendall green. Tech visits the Martinsburg, W. Va., team on Friday.

A week from today the high school battles will be resumed and the second half of the series will be played. Each team will have played four games after this afternoon's contests.

SWIMMERS TO COMPETE

Central Acts as Host Today in Invitations Events for Youngsters.

During the freshman-junior dual swimming meet at Central High School today swimmers from four schools will compete in special fifty and one hundred yard races.

Central, Eastern, Western and St. Albans will have swimmers in the events. Milstead and Coll will represent Central. Von Schelle will swim for Western. Kestel and Lillipoll will compete for Eastern and Moses for St. Albans.

The meet will start at 2:30. There will be seven events for the juniors and freshmen and one or two races for non-swimmers of the first of the year.

Moore Sheehan, Tech's track captain, has a number of youngsters in tow training them for the indoor meets. Tech is said to be angling for a track coach at present. The name of a prominent coach has been mentioned at Tech and action is expected shortly.

The fact that but two high school events are to be held in each of the track meets indoors here this winter is turning attention of the school boys to relay races. Both meets will have a fifty and quarter for the youngsters.

Eastern will be up against it for battery men this spring. Tomlin has failed to return and Flaherty has entered Staunton Military Academy.

AL DEMAREE QUILTS

Cubs' Pitcher Says He Will Be on Board Train for Pasadena.

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—Al Demaree, ex-Phillie, recently acquired by the Cubs, will be aboard the Cub special when it pulls out for California February 20.

Despite the fact that Demaree has been an enthusiastic member of the players' fraternity and called a meeting of players here recently to agitate the strike movement, he says he will accept a contract tendered by President Charles Weegman.

TINKER KEEPS CLUB.

PEORIA, Ill., Jan. 23.—Joe Tinker, one of the owners of the Columbus American Association team, will retain a half interest this season in the Peoria club of the Three-Eye League, under an agreement signed with the directors today. William Jackson was reappointed manager.

HAVE ROUGH CONTEST.

RACINE, Wis., Jan. 23.—In one of the roughest ten-round scraps ever staged in Wisconsin, George (Knockout) Brown scored a draw with Bob Mocha. Milwaukee cave man, here last night.

TEWKSBURY APPLIES

Golfer Would Have Been Imposed by U. S. G. A. Ruled.

The latest word concerning the amateur situation is to the effect that Paul Tewksbury, the Woodland member who was declared ineligible by the United States Golf Association at the same time that Francis Outmet and John H. Sullivan, his two clubmates, were placed outside the fold, has appealed to the national organization for reinstatement.

Tewksbury maintains that he is not making capital out of his business, while Outmet and Sullivan are proprietors of a sporting goods business. He has mailed his application to the national body, and figures that he will be allowed to play as an amateur this coming season.

CHAPIN AND HOWSER AHEAD IN TOURNEY

Palace Leaders Meet Vaeth and Mayhew Today in Opening Games of Series.

Little change has taken place among the twelve leaders of the Palace bowling tournament. Chapin topping the qualifiers with a total of 1,407 for ten games. Howser and Matchett follow in second and third places with 1,385 and 1,383, respectively.

Roll Match Today.

Chapin and Howser, two high men in the tournament, engage in the first five games of a ten game series with Johnny Vaeth and Tom Mayhew, of the Grand Central, at the Palace today, the rolling to start at 2:30. The second half of the match will be rolled on the Grand Central alleys.

Vaeth and Mayhew have been spilling the maples for excellent scores and the match with the two Palace alleys should prove interesting.

Big Prize List.

One hundred and fifty dollars will be distributed in prizes in the Palace tournament, the qualifications of which close Saturday night. The roll-off date has not been set. Following are the first twelve contestants:

	H.G.	L.G.	Total.
Chapin.....	167	130	1,407
Howser.....	150	131	1,385
Matchett.....	164	128	1,383
Beacon.....	159	129	1,387
Wood.....	168	127	1,392
Williams.....	148	123	1,324
Carroll.....	148	121	1,324
Watson.....	139	122	1,293
Harley.....	139	123	1,278
Pratt.....	133	119	1,272
Wood.....	131	117	1,251
A. Thomas.....	137	118	1,249

BOWLERS START WELL

Three Get Big First Games, Then Fade Into Mediocrity.

Three bowlers had opportunities to make exceptional records in the duck-pin leagues last night when they started their sets with big games.

Burner, anchor man for the Phelps team, in the Fourteenth Street League, obtained a count of 152 in his initial string, but it took the pep out of him, and he dropped to 88 in the second. His third was 116.

Oliver, of Columbia Lodge, Masonic League, got a start of 144 and followed it with 114, and 101, and Vaeth, the Grand Central roller, hit the maples for 132 in his first game, 131 in the second, and then fell to 107 in the final.

Every member of the Washington Centennial quint in the Masonic League rolled well, and the team won their game from Orlin. Lord was high man for Washington Centennial with a set of 348, but he was outrolled by J. Baltz, his rival in the anchor position, who had scores of 108, 146, and 120.

Despite a handicap of forty pins, the Pioneers were unable to trim the Royals in the Washington City Ten-pin League, the Royals grabbing two out of three. Thomas, of the Royals, had the best game of 210.

Bill Rider, captain of Treasury, Department League, was one of the night's best performers with a 354 total.

Grand Centrals failed to get going until their final game with the Sheremans in the District League, and they won two games.

WILL PLAY ON COAST.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 23.—Exhibition games by the Chicago National League team, announced yesterday, will be played here March 3,